



ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Choosing Leaders – The Key to Success

As Project Managers, we constantly have to make choices. Success or failure often hinges upon the quality of our decisions. How do we make these choices? Where do we go for help in making them?

There is an elegant solution to almost every problem we encounter as project managers – all you have to do is choose a competent leader who will do the right thing at the right time. The key to this solution is selecting the right person for that leadership role. Once that is done, that person will figure out what to do and when to do it. But how many of us are blessed with an overabundance of people capable of taking on such a leadership role?

This session utilizes case studies to examine the process by which we choose leaders within our organizations. Each case study involves a boss who must make a crucial decision concerning who will lead a critically important activity. It is a highly interactive session, with extensive participation from the audience. The attendees at the session will be asked to discuss the case study, state what they would do if they were the boss, and share with the group the rationale for their decisions. The group discussion will then be followed by a short presentation that reveals the identities of the actual people involved in the case studies, the challenges those people faced, and the outcomes of their decisions.

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John Baniszewski has 27 years of leadership experience with such NASA satellite projects as Landsat, Hubble Space Telescope (HST), the Earth Observing System (EOS), the Tracking & Data Relay Satellite (TDRS), and the NASA/NOAA Meteorological satellites. He has served as a Deputy Project Manager, Financial Manager, Procurement Manager, and Contracting Officer. He was the Deputy Project Manager for Resources for the Exploration Communications and Navigation Systems (ECANS) Project. He is a two-time recipient of the Goddard Exceptional Achievement Award, and five-time recipient of NASA's Acquisition Improvement Award. He also conducts seminars on leadership, based on the lessons of American history. He retired in 2008 and runs his own business.